The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai #5

From the Sri Caitanya Caritamrta
Adapted by Locan dasa

Narrator: This play is called "The Deliverance of Jagai and Madhai." It is a drama meant to glorify Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Who appeared in the year 1486. His mission was to inaugurate the congregational chanting of the Hare Krsna mantra, which is the best means of deliverance for all people in the age of Kali, The Srimad Bhagavatam states that people in this age are generally quarrelsome, lazy, misguided, unlucky and always disturbed, and as such, they have little interest in Spiritual Life. But, although the mass of people are so unqualified in this age, the Lord is so merciful that He brings the easiest process and by that process anyone can attain the highest spiritual perfection. So, now let us see how these two degraded specimens of the Kali Yuga were delivered by the grace of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. The scene is Nadia, West Bengal, at the house of Jagai!

SCENE ONE

(Jagai is drunk, sitting at a table with a bottle and a glass. He is unshaven , dirty, and looks completely miserable.)

Jagai: Hell, hell, hell, hell! God, my life is hell!
(He addresses those who laugh in the audience.)
Shut up! You think it's funny? You blissful babies … what do you know about misery? You don't know nothin'! But, I've been through it. You see, I was like you guys once - happy, chanting, blissful … then I got mature and I said to myself : "Hey, there's a whole world out there I haven't experienced."
I caught a train for the nearest big city - Gorakpur! My parents told me never to even go near that town, it was so sinful. But, I wouldn't listen to them. Oh no, not me! I do what I want, when I want. Hah! Nobody pushes me around except the Modes!
And then I met Shakuntala! She used to laugh at my Brahmin thread. Her ropes were stronger than my Brahmin thread! I left home and when I came back ...

(Madhai enters. He is not so reflective as Jagai, but is more brazen, impetuous and mean.)

Madhai: Jagai, you old monkey-faced mudha, you! What a ya doin' □ talking to a bottle again? Get off that mental platform. You sold the elephant, Jagai, now throw in the rod. Come on, bring your bottle and your knife

and let's go see what kind of life there is in town!

Jagai: (Head in hands) Why don't you leave me alone, Madhai? What are we going to do in town? Beat up some poor slob, steal his money and buy more of this? (holds up bottle, shaking it) This poison! God what good is this life!!?

(Madhai grabs Jagai by the front of the shirt, threatening him with his fist.)

Madhai: Listen, you putrid brother of mine, you got us into this! There's no way out now. You're the one that laughed at me when I used to ask you why you didn't get up for mangal artik in our little temple room! You're the one that told me that spiritual life is for women and children! We used to be nice little Brahmacharies. We even fasted all day on Ekadasi! Then, you started missing the arotiks in the temple, or if you did come, you wouldn't chant but you'd sit in the back. And then, one day, you were gone. But, the seed was planted, and now I've come out even worse than you at sin and debauchery. So, don't spoil our fun now with your reluctance. Get up! (They both stumble off the stage.)

SCENE TWO

(Grandfather is making laddus and putting them in a bag. His grand-daughter is watching him and asking questions.)

Girl: Grandpa, I went to the market with my mother, yesterday.

Grandpa: Oh? Did you get some nice fruits and vegetables?

Girl: Yes, and we saw some nice devotees chanting Hare Krsna! Everyone in the marketplace was joining them in singing and dancing.

Grandpa: Oh, you must have seen the devotees of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He is a very great religious leader in Nadia and He has many followers. I have heard that there is even one Muslim-born Vaisnava with them, named Haridasa Thakur, who is very advanced. Haridasa Thakur goes with the famous Vaisnava, Nityananda Prabhu, from door to door all over Nadia and they fall at people's feet begging them to chant Hare Krsna. Well, I'm ready to take this to the temple for the festival of Laxmi Devi, now, take care.

Girl: Bye, Grandpa!

SCENE THREE

(Grandfather is walking across stage with bag of laddhus when Jagai andMadhai enter and see him from afar.)

Madhai: Hey, check that out!

Jagai: Check what out?

Madhai: That old man! Looks like he’s got a sack of money!

Jagai: Oh, how do you know it’s money? You’re crazy!

Madhai: Look how he's dressed. The guy's wealthy. Come on, let's get that bag!

Jagai: Leave him alone, Madhai, he's old and I'll bet it isn't money, anyway.
(Madhai looks menancingly at Jagai but then changes his mood.)

Madhai: I'll tell you what, Jagai, you go up to him real sweet and find out what's in the bag. I'll wait here.

Jagai: Okay, I will! (Jagai approaches Grandfather.) Well, hello there, old man ... heavy sack you're carrying!

Grandpa: (answers innocently, smiling) Yes, it's for my Laxmi ...

Madhai: (to himself, out loud) His laxmi! I knew it!
(He jumps on the old man and hits him in the head. Jagai takes the bag and they run off to side. The Grandfather stumbles offstage in the other direction, holding his head.)

Jagai: (looking in bag) You fool, you fool You've beat him for nothing! There's only sweetmeats in here. You idiot!
(Jagai takes a big drink in desperation. Madhai grabs the bottle from him to relieve the shock. He drinks. They run off.)

SCENE FOUR

(Madhai enters, helping Jagai to walk.)

Madhai: Now, here we have example of a dwija-bandhu. He ain't a Brahmin, that's for sure, so he must be the fren' of a Brahmin. Yeah. And since he's my fren' then I must be a Brahman! (Jagai sits down in a slump.) Madhai dasa Brahmachary. Uncommon Brahman, fully

decorated with all Brahminical qualities:
Truthfulness! I never lie about how much I can drink!
Cleanliness! I wash my hands every time I kill someone!
And Mercy! I always share my liquor with Jagai!
And everything I "earn" from my "work," too.

(He pulls a laddu out of his pocket and offers it to J. He is looking at the laddu, still a little stunned, when Haridasa Thakur and Nityananda Prabhu enter.)

Nityananda: Look, Haridasa, the two most degraded fellows in our town, Jagai and Madhai. If we could make them into devotees, just think how it would spread the fame of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu! Let's see what we can do!

Haridasa: Nityananda Prabhu, these men were once Brahmins of the highest order. Their parents were respected all over West Bengal.

Nityananda: And now they are living just like pigs in the gutter! Jagai! Madhai Get up! Please, try chanting Hare Krsna and be happy!

Madhai: Are they talkin' to us, Jagai? Are you addressin' us? Me and Jagai, we don't need a lecture, today. Anyway, pigs can't appreciate philosophy and we're pigs! So, you better get out of here!

Jagai: Yeah! You tell 'em, Madhai!

Madhai: Pigs do whatever they want! Pigs eat whenever they want! And Pigs pass stool whenever they want!

Jagai: Very elegantly put, dear brother. These two better get out of here! (to Nityananda Prabhu) Why are you wasting Your time with us? You better leave before you get hurt. Madhai can get mean sometime and I can't control him.

Madhai: (Gets up, picking up a stick and chases Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur off.) You heard him! Get outta here! We like being pigs! Get out! Get out! (They all exit.)

SCENE FIVE

(The little girl walks across stage with her mother who is carrying a bag of fruit and vegetables.)

Girl: Mata, is Grandpa feeling better, today?

Mother: Yes, dear, he feels a lot better! He said he might even come into town, tonight.

Girl: I hope we see the devotees again.
(They go off. Nityananda and Haridasa Thakur enter.)

Nityananda: Sri Caitanya was very pleased with our attempt to convert Jagai and Madhai. If we meet them again, let us give them one more chance to join us!
(Jagai and Madhai enter noisily from far side.)

Madhai: Where'd you put that bottle, this time!?

Jagai: How do I know, you monkey-faced mlecha! You had it last time we were at the market!

Madhai: Well, we'd better find it. I ain't been this sober since I was twelve years old!

Jagai: And how long ago was that?

Madhai: (He tries to figure it but can't.) I don't know! Don't try to distract me. I gotta either find that bottle or rob somebody so I can buy another one!
(They meet Nityananda Prabhu and Haridasa Thakur abruptly.)

Nityananda: Jagai, Madhai! You're not drinking today! Take this opportunity to try this chanting with us!

Haridasa: Nityananda Prabhu, be careful!

Jagai: What? Not you again!

Nityananda: Jagai! Madhai! Please try chanting! You'll see! You'll become happy! It's a special benediction for this age that anyone can take it up from whatever position they are and taste the highest nectar. Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is distributing it freely! Repeat after Me:
Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare!

Madhai: You're back again with this Harinam! I warned You to stay away!
(Madhai takes up a piece of broken pot and hurls it at Nityananda Prabhu. It

hits Nityananda Prabhu in the forehead.)

Nityananda: Madhai, I don't care what you've done to Me. I know you two are completely miserable and this is the only medicine. Don't turn away from us! Lord Caitanya is so kind, The Hare Krsna mantra will clean away all your moroseness and make you happy and bright again! Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

(Madhai is about to throw another piece of clay pot, but Jagai restrains Him.)

Jagai: Madhai, Madhai! He's the real thing! Don't hurt Him. See how humble He is?! Stop!

(Lord Caitanya enters quickly with His chakra raised to kill Jagai and Madhai.)

Nityananda: Lord Caitanya!

Haridasa: Oh, my Lord!

(Jagai and Madhai recoil in great fear.)

Caitanya: I can tolerate any offense on My own behalf but I cannot tolerate an offense to My devotees!!! (Jagai and Madhai gasp and cringe close to the ground.)

Caitanya: I shall kill you!

Nityananda: (Restrains the Lord) Please, My Lord, forgive them. Just see how they are taking shelter of You Lotus Feet, burying their heads at Your Feet! Look at them, they're whimpering like puppy dogs! My Lord, almost everyone in this age of Kali is fallen like these two brothers and if You kill them You will have to kill most everyone else, too. We know that Your incarnation is actually meant for killing their demoniac mentality, so I beg you, My Lord, please forgive them and spare them. Just see their repentance.

Madhai: Oh Lord, we are so sorry! Please don't kill us! We have been the worst of men but now that we have seen You we will change our lives completely. Oh, please spare us and let us become your devotees!!!

Jagai: My Lord, You are so merciful and we are so wretched, we will always be Your servants!

Caitanya: Because you have taken shelter of Nityananda and I, therefore I

shall spare you, But henceforward, you must never fall down from the Brahminical principles and must completely give up your habits of debauchery.

Both: Oh, we will, My Lord! Thank You, my Lord! All Glories to Your Lotus Feet!

Caitanya: Let us all chant the Holy Name!
(Nityananda leads a kirtan and all join in. The Girl, her mother and her Grandfather also come on and join in the Kirtan.)